The Columbus Dispatch

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17 MORE LIVES LOST

Distraught parents wait for news about their children Wednesday afternoon after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. [JOEL AUERBACH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

THE GUNMAN

'Everyone predicted it,' student says

From wire reports

Nikolas Cruz, the young man suspected of killing at least 17 people Wednesday at a Florida high school, was a former student who, according to one current student, had caused peers to joke that if anyone were to open fire inside the school, it would be Cruz.

"A lot of people were saying that it would be him," the student told Miami news station WFOR-TV. "They would say he would be the one to shoot up the school. Everyone predicted it."

SEE GUNMAN, A9

Ex-student goes on shooting rampage at Florida high school

From wire reports

PARKLAND, Fla. — A former student opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle at a Florida high school Wednesday, killing at least 17 people and sending scores of students fleeing into the streets in the nation's deadliest school shooting since a gunman attacked an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

The 19-year-old shooter, identified as Nikolas Cruz, was armed with an AR-15 rifle and equipped with a gas mask and smoke grenades. He set off a fire alarm to draw students out of classrooms at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, one of the state's largest schools, before beginning his shooting rampage outside the school shortly before dismissal time around 2:40 p.m.

He then made his way inside and proceeded down hallways he knew well, firing at students and teachers who were scurrying for cover, the authorities said.

Family members embrace after the shooting. [WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

SEE LIVES, A8

STATE GOVERNMENT

Education agencies could be combined

By Jim Siegel
The Columbus Dispatch

A proposal to combine three state agencies into one department and give the governor more direct power over the implementation of education policy will be a primary focus of House Republicans over the next three months.

New legislation would join the Department of Education, Department of Higher Education and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation into one cabinet-level agency under the governor's control.

SEE AGENCIES, A11

FAIR HOUSING STUDY

Loans still withheld for blacks, Latinos

By Aaron Glantz and Emmanuel Martinez
REVEAL

PHILADELPHIA — Fifty years after the federal Fair Housing Act banned racial discrimination in lending, African-Americans and Latinos continue to be routinely denied conventional mortgage loans at rates far higher than their white counterparts.

This modern-day redlining persists in 61 metro areas,

SEE LOANS, A6

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